

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief John R. Batiste*

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## *Office of the State Fire Marshal State Fire Marshal Michael Matlick*

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date:** March 5, 2009  
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### **State Fire Marshal Reminds Residents to “Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries.”**

As the time change approaches on Sunday, March 8, 2009, State Fire Marshal Michael Matlick wants to remind residents to make another change that could save their lives – changing the batteries in their smoke alarms.

Mr. Matlick states, “An easy way to remember to do so is when changing your clock, change your batteries. When you change your clocks, you will be making a lifesaving change in your household when you also remember to change your smoke alarm batteries.”

Remember smoke detectors save lives!

Sadly, 45 people in Washington lost their lives due to fire last year. Of the deaths that occurred in homes, recreational vehicles, or other places where people were sleeping, nearly 70% were reported to have no working smoke alarms. This trend is alarming - and preventable. Ensure your home is protected with working smoke alarms, and test them monthly to ensure proper operation.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.wsp.wa.gov](http://www.wsp.wa.gov).

*The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.*

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**PREVENT FIRES  
IT'S YOUR JOB!**